

***Remarks***

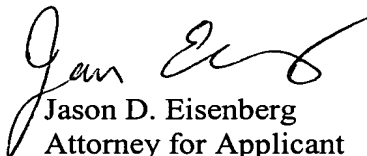
Claims 1-8 are pending in the application, with 1, 2, 3, and 6 being the independent claims. No new matter was entered by the amendments to the specification. Support for all the amendments to the specification is found, *inter alia*, in the originally filed specification.

***Conclusion***

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicant believes the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

  
Jason D. Eisenberg  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 43,447

Date: 2/20/04

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934  
(202) 371-2600